
Site Activities Update

Devil's Swamp Lake Site

Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

March 2015

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Current activities
- What's next?
- Site history
- Where to get more information

Site Description

Devil's Swamp Lake is a man-made, crescent-shaped lake located on the Mississippi River east bank floodplain, approximately ten miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as shown on the Site vicinity map included as Figure 1-1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers excavated the lake in 1973 and 1974 to provide a source of borrow material for levee construction to reinforce the levee along the north and west sides of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge Terminal (Baton Rouge Barge Harbor).

Site Background

The Site is generally bordered by the north portions of Bayou Baton Rouge to the north; US Highway 61 – (Scenic Highway), the Ewell Swamp farm, Baton Rouge Disposal, LLC, (previously owned and operated by Safety-Kleen [Baton Rouge], Inc., formerly known as Laidlaw Environmental Services [Baton Rouge], formerly known as Rollins Environmental Services [LA], Inc. [Rollins]), the Baton Rouge barge harbor to the east; and the Mississippi River to the south and west. The Site consists of contaminated sediments within the Lake, a portion of Devil's Swamp adjoining the Lake and associated wetlands.

Contaminants of Concern

PCBs have been identified by the EPA as the primary COCs in the sediment and in aquatic receptors in Devil's Swamp Lake. In March 2004, the EPA identified the commercial hazardous waste disposal facility formerly operated by Rollins as the apparent source of the Devil's Swamp Lake PCB impact.

The Devil's Swamp Lake Site was proposed to be placed on the NPL on March 8, 2004. The EPA issued an order to the PRPs to characterize the nature and extent of risks at the site.

Purpose of the RI/FS

The RI/FS process represents the methodology for characterization of the nature and extent of risks posed by potential constituents at a site and for evaluation of potential remedial options. Nine criteria are used in the RI/FS process during the evaluation of remedial alternatives. These criteria include:

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment
2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment
5. Short-term effectiveness
6. Implementability
7. Cost
8. State acceptance
9. Community acceptance

The purpose of a RI Report is to describe the methods, sample collection procedures, and data analysis techniques used to conduct a RI for a Site. The RI for Devil's Swamp Lake

Superfund Site is being conducted in a tiered approach consisting of two tiers, Tier 1 and Tier 2. The outline of the tiered approach follows:

Tier 1:

- Initial characterization of the nature and extent of PCBs at the Site
- Determine if a Baseline HHRA is required by identification of COCs and comparison of concentrations of the constituents at the Site with applicable screening criteria
- Conduct an initial ecological effects evaluation through a SLERA

Tier 2:

The Tier 2 RI supplements the Tier 1 RI results with additional data and completion of a more thorough evaluation of the pathways and receptors identified as potentially at risk. The Tier 2 RI may include more than one phase of field investigation. The Tier 2 RI includes:

- Additional characterization of the nature and extent of PCBs at the Site
- Completion of the Baseline HHRA
- Refinement of the understanding of ecological effects through a BERA

Key Milestones in the RI/FS investigation:

The Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Devil's Swamp Lake Site issued on December 3, 2009. The UAO was issued to Baton Rouge Disposal, LLC, by the EPA Region 6 and became effective on December 18, 2009.

A Final Preliminary Site Characterization Report was submitted on May 21, 2010. In addition, on June 3, 2010, Clean Harbors submitted two pages for replacement in the Final Preliminary Site Characterization Report.

A Final phase 1 or Tier 1 RI Work Plan was submitted on November 24, 2010. The Tier 1 RI sample collection activities were completed

during the weeks of January 17, 2011, and January 24, 2011.

The Final Tier 1 RI Report was submitted on February 10, 2012, and included a summary of the scope of work completed during the Tier 1 RI sampling activities and the results of the screening-level Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and the Screening-Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA).

A Final Tier 2 RI Work Plan was submitted on June 25, 2012 and contained a proposed scope of work to address both the needs of the RI and the LDEQ fishing advisory.

The Tier 2 RI sediment, soil, and fish tissue sample collection activities were initiated in July 2012, and crawfish sample collection was not successful due to the Site conditions encountered at that time.

The Analytical Data Assessment and Validation Report for the Tier 2 RI for the 2012 sampling event, excluding the crawfish samples, was submitted to the EPA on December 14, 2012.

Clean Harbors continued to monitor Site conditions, including Mississippi River water elevation, temperature and duration of inundation, to evaluate potential suitability for crawfish sample collection.

Representatives of Clean Harbors, CRA, LDEQ, and EA participated in crawfish sample collection activities from February 2013 through May 2013. Again, crawfish sample collection was not successful in the area of the lake due to the Site conditions encountered at that time.

The Analytical Data Assessment and Validation Report for the Tier 2 RI Crawfish Sampling for the 2013

crawfish sampling was submitted to the EPA on October 17, 2013.

Due to the high proportion of crawfish collected outside of the assessment area in 2013, additional crawfish and sediment were re-sampled in May-June 2014. Crawfish were collected in the North Devil's Swamp Lake AOI.

The Analytical Data Assessment and Validation Report for the 2014 for additional crawfish sample collection was submitted to the EPA on August 27, 2014.

What happens next?

The Tier 2 RI Report will be completed summer 2015. This document includes the results of water, sediment, fish and crawfish samples collected. It also presents an analysis of what risks the contaminants of concern present to people (human health risk assessment) and the environment (ecological risks), as represented by birds, fish, crawfish and small animals such as raccoons or minks.

The EPA will use this information to establish what future action will be required at the Devil's Swamp Lake.

The State, represented by the Louisiana Department of the Environment, in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, will conduct a reassessment of the current fish consumption advisory to identify if any new changes are appropriate.

If future EPA actions are required, several response alternatives will be developed, evaluated as previously indicated, and presented to the public in a Proposed Plan

to evaluate Community Acceptance and receive comments during a public comment period.

EPA will respond to comments prior making any final decision.

See the attached roadmap of the Superfund process.

Where to get more information

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All inquiries from the media should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund site
www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/pdffiles/0600652.pdf

Site Repository

Scotlandville Branch Library
7373 Scenic Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70807